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The Artist in the Library: Research Services for Creators

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The Artist in the Library: Research Services for Creators

Kristina Keogh, Indiana University and John Glover, Virginia Commonwealth University

SPACES

- Browsing Collections
 - Art Browsery
- Exhibits
 - Digital Art student exhibit
- Assignments
 - Sketching in the library



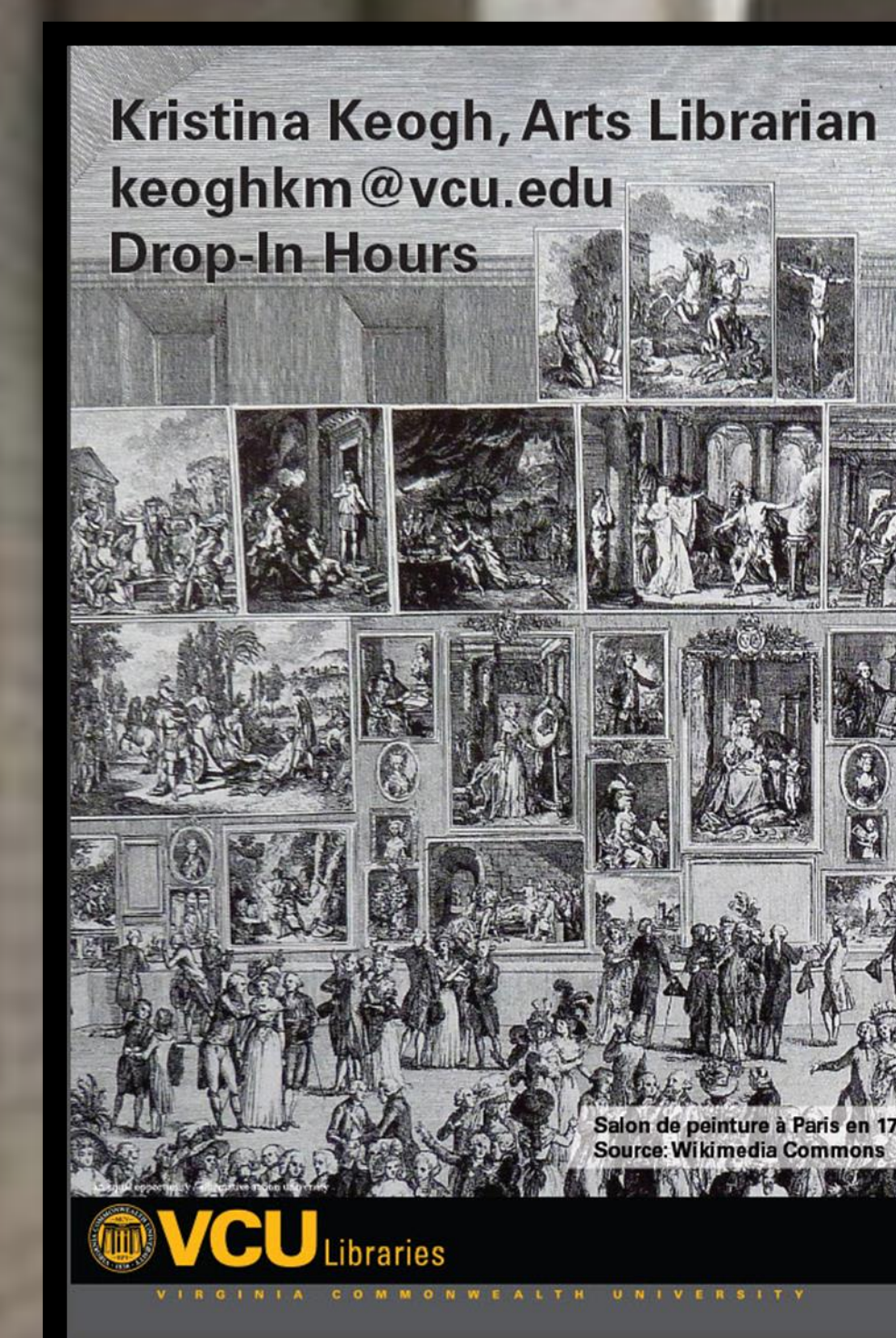
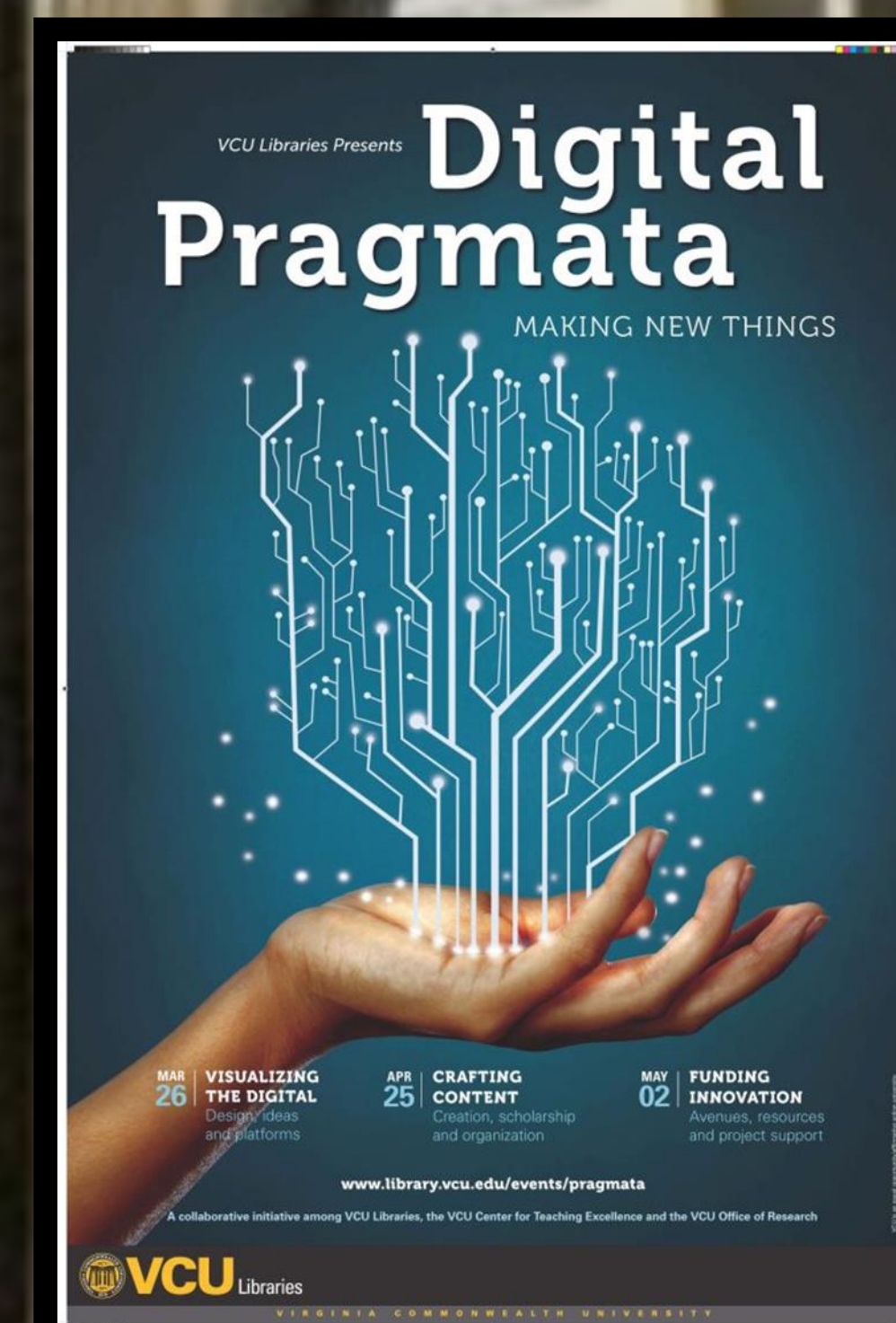
As librarians working in the visual arts and humanities, we devote substantial energy to supporting researchers along a broad continuum of subjects. This includes the services we provide to groups that often go underserved at the library: students and faculty who create new and unique objects and texts. The needs of artistic researchers in such diverse areas as interior design, painting, and creative writing overlap in many ways, both expected and unexpected.

Our efforts to reach out to creators and offer support for their distinctive research needs have included various activities. We have taken classes within arts and humanities programs, as well as regularly attending exhibits, readings, openings, and other departmental events. These have proven fertile ground for our work, offering opportunities for spontaneous research consultations, introductions that were the foundations for lasting collegial relationships, and a much better sense of the culture and needs of our departments that focus on creative work.

The services we provide have included producing research guides on such topics as creative writing or sculpture, conducting workshops on digital image resources and fair use, and instituting a browsing area for art exhibition catalogs. All of these services were tailored to the manner in which creators look for information. We have assessed these services through workshop and class evaluations, reference transaction statistics, and consultation numbers. Our services in these areas have grown and diversified as our contact with arts and writing patrons has increased, and their interest in library offerings has proven strong and consistent.

EVENTS & SERVICES

- Department Office Hours
- Creators & the Digital Humanities
 - Digital Pragmata
- Library Instruction
 - Support coursework
- Embedded Librarians
 - MFA novel workshop
 - BFA painting class



CREATIVE RESEARCH

- Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary
 - The arts and beyond
 - Serendipitous discovery
- Research guides
 - Subjects; classes; special topics
- Advisory roles
 - MFA thesis committees
 - Journals [VOKE]
 - James River Writers

